Seminary

THE PACIFIC

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A Prayer.

Grant us such grace that we may work Thy will,
And speak Thy words and walk before Thy face,
Profound and calm like waters deep and still:
Grant us such grace.
Not hastening and not loitering in our pace
For gloomiest valley or for sultriest hill,
Content and fearless on our downward race.

As rivers seek a sea they cannot fill
But are themselves filled in its embrace,
Absorbed, at last, each river and each rill:
Grant us such grace.

—Christiana Rossetti.

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PLANT PATIENCE.

"Plant patience in the garden of the soul!
The roots are bitter, but the fruits are sweet;
And when, at last, it stands a tree complete,
Beneath its tender shade the burning heat
And burden of the day shall lose control—
Plant patience in the garden of thy soul!"

Superintendent Harrison of the California Home Missionary Society has received a letter from the American Tract Society in which it is stated that the Society will give Sunday-school libraries to such churches as had their libraries destroyed in the recent conflagration and are not able to replace them. We are pleased to learn that Mr. Harrison has named the San Francisco Chinese Mission as one of the organizations needing a library and worthy of it.

The First Congregational Church of San Francisco has its plans perfected now for the building of a temporary house of worship at its old location on the corner of Post and Mason. This will require an expenditure of not less than $18,000. There will be Sunday-school and prayer-meeting rooms and rooms for social purposes in the basement as formerly, with an auditorium above which will be the size of the old one with the exception of the gallery which will be omitted. The walls of the old building or the parts of them now standing, will be utilized It will cost about $3,000 to put the walls in shape for use in the construction of the new building. The tower will be left standing and the pastor will have a study arranged therein. It is the intention of Dr. Adams to establish his residence as soon as possible somewhere in the neighborhood of the church. He realizes that he has a stupendous task before him and that the work can be best carried on by being in the very center of things.

Five persons from Methodist and Presbyterian churches united with the North Berkeley Congregational Church last Sunday. This is a good sign of the times. There was a time not far back in the past when Methodists were quite loath to come into membership in a Congregational Church or any other except a Methodist. And Presbyterians were much more reluctant to break away from the mother church than Congregationalists were. But there have been great changes in the last twenty-five years, and the denomination is not emphasized as it once was. There will be greater changes as the years roll on, and there are people living today who will wonder some time at their whims and prejudices, when they see how unfounded they were. The time will come when people will cease talking about the temperamental differences which now lead men and women to seek, some one church, some another. Either there will be no great temperamental differences, or they will be minimized, as they ought now to be, for the common good.

Puget Sound Academy, at Snohomish, Washington, is to go out of existence. Some of the property reverts to the town of Snohomish. Other portions will be sold in order that, if possible, the Education Society may have returned to it what has come therefrom, and also a friend of the institution who had advanced some money be reimbursed. It is not for The Pacific to enter into a consideration and presentation of the things which have led to the suspension of this academy. At the best, under the most favorable conditions that are possible on the Pacific coast, it has been found very difficult to conduct the smaller educational institutions. At this distance, and judging from California experiences, we are inclined to the opinion that if suspension of this educational work had not come now it would have come at a later date. Washington has a large number of educational institutions. Congregationalists will have to be content in all probability, with Whitman College, which is situate at Walla Walla, and which under the leadership of President Penrose and through the generosity of Dr. Pearsons has been brought to a position of large influence throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Early in May the Rev. Dr. W. F. Day, pastor emeritus of the First Congregational Church of Los Angeles, preached a sermon on the fortieth anniversary of his ordination as a minister of the gospel. It has been printed in pamphlet form and we have received a copy of it and have read it with interest. The sermon closed with this testimony by Dr. Day: "I am glad that I gave myself to the ministry of the gospel of Christ. Were I a young man again, I would be ordained again. Imperfectly as it has been done, it has been a blessed work. My anticipations have been more than realized, though often in ways I did not anticipate. My greatest joy has been when I have led some one into the Christ-life. While I have preached to the sinning, I have also realized that I was preaching to the sorrowing, and that there are broken hearts as well as broken laws. The Christ whom I have preached has been very precious to me." Dr. Day says that his outlook at the end of these forty years is hopeful. He says concerning sin: "I continue to accept the Christian doctrine of sin because every day and by all classes of men, and by the usages of men in business, in society, in themselves, the fact of sin is daily demonstrated. I accept the Christian doctrine of forgiveness of sin and salvation because only such a forgiveness and salvation fits the situation."

A timely note of warning was sounded by the Rev. Dr. Adams at the meeting of the Congregational ministers of San Francisco and vicinity on Monday on what he was pleased to term "Labor Union Tyranny." Dr. Adams made reference to the extremely high wages which are being demanded by some of the workingmen in San Francisco, as much as $6 and $7 a day by plumbers and bricklayers and expressed the conviction that it was time for ministers to be a little more careful than some have been in the past in their utterances in regard to labor unions. The Pacific has felt for some time that not a few ministers in their efforts to show a friendly spirit toward organized labor have practically ignored the exactions of the unions. Let the ministers come in contact with some of the unions as business men have, and the other side of the question will be more fully in view by them. We were pained at hearing a minister denounce not long ago the workingmen who did not unite with the labor unions. Unions are not managed always in such a manner as to suit the thoroughly fair-minded men, and they prefer often to stay out of them, and we honor them for it. There are many men in the labor unions today who would not be there if they could have had work outside of them; and those who do remain outside should not be censured by any one either within or without. When Dr. Adams was having the chimneys on his house rebuilt after the fire he had experiences such as business men have very frequently and a knowledge of which leads some men to keep out of labor unions. Workingmen sat around and smoked cigarettes and delayed the work while receiving seventy-five cents an hour.

AMONG THE CHURCHES.

Alameda.—The West End Church received four to membership on confession at its communion service on Sunday, July 1st.

San Francisco, Bethlehem.—There were nine accessions to the church last Sunday, five of the number on confession of faith.

Sonoma.—Two persons were received into the church membership last Sunday. This makes 17 additions since Mr. Cragin began his pastorate last September.

North Berkeley.—Eight persons united with this church last Sunday, one on confession. Only two of the seven coming by letter were from Congregational churches. The others were from Methodist and Presbyterian churches.

Sunnyvale.—The church at Sunnyvale is growing in strength every week. The field is a promising one. The building which was dedicated recently cost with the lot $3,186. The plant when entirely finished will be worth about $4,000.

Oroville.—Rev. C. H. Stevens began his pastorate in Oroville May 6th of this year, and is serving this church very acceptably. His congregations have been unusually large morning and evening. He begins his summer vacation by starting on a trip to Denver, Colorado, July 5th. Communion was held July 1st. Three united with the church, two on confession. This makes five that have been added to the church since Mr. Stevens preached his first sermon here.

San Francisco, Olivet.—Olivet Church held a semi-annual business meeting last week. Reports showed that sixteen persons had been received to membership during the six months, 10 on confession. The Sunday-school is ten per cent larger than it was at the beginning of the year. All debts are paid, and there is on hand a building fund of $250. The pastor, the Rev. B. F. Sargent, finds these semi-annual meetings helpful and believes that they might with advantage be arranged for by other churches.

Lodi.—At the regular communion service July 1st, a large number of disciples partook of the Lord's Supper; thirteen united with the church, one by letter, twelve on confession; eight were baptized by believer's baptism, and two infants were baptized a short time before. The Sunday-school has outgrown the meeting house, and the Endeavor Society is the largest in the County. The people are talking of a new meeting-house, much needed for all our church work

Pacific Grove, Mayflower.—Nine persons were received into fellowship last Sunday morning, five on confession and four by letter. Of those received, seven came from the Suday-school. Three adults were baptized. Accessions to church membership since Jan. 1st, 30. Present membership 144. The church is considering plans for enlarging the chapel to three or four times its present capacity, to afford room for carrying on the work of an up-to-date Sunday-school, and for the social gatherings of the church.

Eureka, First.—There have been forty-three accessions since the first of the year. Sunday and midweek services are well attended. Sunday-school is growing and the basement has been fitted up for primary department work. Church revarnished. New Movement Bible Class has been organized. A $500 debt is provided for. An Ushers Association with over twenty members was organized last week; the purpose, fellowship and ushering with proficiency; association to meet for business and social once a month. Mr. E. D. Keck, formerly with the St. Mary's Avenue Congregational Church, Omaha, has been engaged to conduct a large chorus choir . He is expected about the middle of July. Perfect harmony prevails among the members, and the church is in splendid position for positive and constructive work in the fall. Pastor, the Rev. J. P. Ratzell, has been voted a vacation.

Oakland, Fourth.—The church celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary on Wednesday and Thursday evenings of last week. The Wednesday evening prayer meeting was devoted entirely to reminiscent talks on the early life of the church—its struggles, steady growth and final settlement in the place where it now is. The attendance at this meeting was very large and many, who have been identified with the church from its organization, brought glimpses of its history through its various stages of development. On Thursday evening, addresses were made by Rev. J. K. McLean, Rev. C. R. Brown and Rev. F. H. Maar, after which a social hour was spent and refreshments served in the new Sunday-school room. Congratulatory talks were made by Reverends Lucas, Rathbone, Sargent, Wikoff and many others. In addition to what was said of those whose integrity and helpfulness have done much to succor the life and preserve the unity of this church, it would be incomplete without mention being made of, and proper consideration given to the work accomplished by the Rev. F. H. Maar who has been its pastor for the last two years. All agree that he is the right man for the place; and his untiring energy makes possible the achievement of much success in church work. His personality in the homes of his people makes him a loving friend as well as devoted pastor, and it is due to his faithful fulfillment of his pastorate that the present harmonious and prosperous conditions exist.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY.

A council for the examination and ordination of Mr. C. M. DuBois was convened at Fields Landing, Humboldt Co. on June 12.

A full representation from all the Congregational churches in the county gathered. Mr. DuBois read an able and comprehensive statement of personal experience and doctrine which led to a unanimous decision on the part of the council to ordain him to the full work of the ministry.

Our churches in Humboldt county are now in better condition than for many years. Rev. J. P. Ratzell, at Eureka has brought about encouraging results that could hardly have been expected a year ago. Forty-three additions to the church have been made during his pastorate of less than a year.

Mr. Bauder, at Ferndale, has given that church a new lease of life, and Mr. Doane at Hydesville and Rhonerville is building up these churches in spiritual power and numbers. Opportunities are many in Humboldt county and our churches are now in better condition to meet them.

Let us be content in work
To do the thing we can; and not presume
To fret because it's little. —E. B. Browning.

NOTES FROM OREGON.

By George H. Himes.

The annual all-day rally of the Congregational Woman's Missionary organizations of Oregon was held in the parlors of the First Church of this city last Wednesday. More than one hudred ladies were present, an excellent program was rendered, and the occasion was one of great interest and of real spiritual uplift.

At the First Church, of this city, this morning, communion was observed, and twelve new members were added to the church, two by letter, and ten on confession of faith. The occasion was a most impressive one, as all coming into the church by confessing Christ, were little girls under twelve years of age.

It is high time that there was more of this. It is within the observation of the writer that many a child has at one time shown a disposition to unite with the church, but was put off because of the feeling on the part of parents and church officials that the child "did not understand the meaning of joining the church." This, certainly, is all wrong. In my opinion, the children of a Christian family never should know that they were not members of the church. Our Catholic friends are much wiser than Protestants in this respect.

It is a great satisfaction to find out that many people are at last beginning to realize that liquor selling and gambling are not sources of real profit to a city. Notably this is the case in a number of Oregon cities, where local option carried at the election of June 4th The work of the Anti-Saloon League has been very effective in this State during the past year. The prodigious efforts of the liquor men to secure an amendment to the local option law, whereby it would have been practically nullified, were signally defeated.

On my way home from Los Angeles a few weeks ago, the word came from an entirely reliable source, wholly outside of the church, that the man who had one of the largest and most lavishly equipped saloons in San Francisco, if not the largest, had decided that come what might, he never would engage in the liquor business again. His place was one of the most popular resorts in the city, and located near the Palace Hotel. My informant, a particular friend of this saloon keeper, and a man of wealth, and one who has indulged the liquor habit for many years to my personal knowledge, told me that the lesson of the absolute prohibition of liquor in San Francisco at the time of the great calamity and the weeks following, had opened his eyes to the enormity of the vileness of the liquor traffic as nothing else could. And this friend, in telling me of his experiences in going over San Francisco during the week from May 17th following, and seeing many of his old cronies, all habitual drinkers, said it was the most profound temperance lesson that he ever knew of, and a lesson that he proposed to take home to himself. So it seems that the calamity which overtook San Francisco may become an object lesson in morals very far reaching in its effects.

Portland, July 1, 1906.

ELLEN SIMONDS DEXTER.

Ellen Simonds Dexter wife of D. Gilbert Dexter died at her home in San Francisco, May 5th, 1906. The cause of her death was from exposure at the time of the earthquake and fire, dating from that terrible morning of April 18th, 1906.

Her home was filled with friends who had lost all, for whom she cared with the hand of love to the last. She was a noble, cultured Christian woman, beloved by all who knew her. A large circle of friends, east and west, mourn her loss. Her great work in life had been to help and cheer those in want and trouble. She was educated at the best institutions of learning in the country. After leaving Willard Female Seminary, Troy, N. Y. she became preceptress of Milton Female Seminary, Milton, Pa. Mrs. Dexter was the daughter of Dea. Asa Simonds of Peru, Vt., being the youngest of the six sisters so well known among educators fifty years ago.

The golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Dexter was celebrated Feb. 6, 1906 at their home and by a large gathering at the First Congregational Church, It was an occasion of genuine and pleasant surprise.

NOTES AND PERSONALS.

The Rev. E. J. Singer ad family are now residing at 556, 30th street, Oakland.

Rev. W. E. Stoddard of Martinez, has brought his family to Berkeley on account of the educational advantages at the University, and their home is now at 1710 Grant street. Mr. Stoddard retains his position in the high school at Martinez

The Rev. H. E. Banham, well known among our Northern churches, has received and accepted a call to the Congregational Church of Martinez. During Mr. Banham's pastorate in Highland a fine new church has been built and the membership in both church and Sunday-school has largely increased. He will receive a cordial welcome among his brethren in the North, where he began his ministry.

MID-SUMMER MISSIONARY RALLY.

This will be held in Echo Park, Los Angeles, on Friday July 13th, beginning at 10 a. m. It will be under the auspices of the Southern Branch of the W. B. M P. and the W. H. M. U. of Southern California. It will be a picnic affair. All are invited and are asked to come prepared with lunch. An unusually fine program has been arranged and a large attendance is expected.

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